

Article Alert

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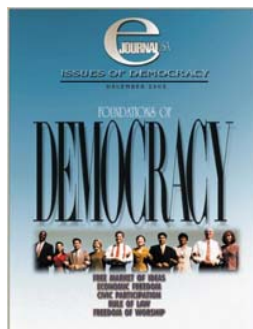
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Foundations of Democracy



People all over the world want to build futures for their families in free and open societies. This aspiration includes the desire to have basic human rights, participate in fair elections, practice one's religion, speak freely on public issues, and be certain that an impartial court system will decide violations of the law. In this journal we focus on several key components of

genuine democracies and the experiences of various nations in fashioning the form of democracy that suits their cultures, protects minority populations, and helps all citizens fulfill their aspirations.(December 2005)

Freedom of the Press

The Central Role of Economic Freedom in Democracy

Freedom of Conscience

Citizenship and Good Democratic Government

Access to Justice: Judicial Reform in Rwanda

Bibliography

Internet Resources

U.S. Life & Culture

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Meet Benjamin Franklin, America's First International Celebrity



His range of interests and influence are still astonishing after 300 years

Benjamin Franklin, whose 300th birthday will be celebrated on January 17, was America's first international celebrity. Find out more about the 10th son of a Boston candle and soap maker who rose to become one of the most famous and intriguing men of the 18th century.

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ACEH, INDONESIA

1. The Tsunami Report Card

By Karl F. Inderfurth, David Fabrycky, Stephen P. Cohen. *Foreign Policy-Dec 2005- Web Exclusive Edition.*

All too often, world leaders rush to make aid pledges in the aftermath of disasters, only to leave them unfulfilled as interest and attention wanes. But last year's devastating Asian tsunami spurred a response that may be a model for future disaster relief. A look at the numbers shows us why. Report Card Indicators consist of Death and Displacement; Most Generous Disaster Response Ever; Show Me the Money; Economic Damage; NGOs Step Up; Spending Wisely; and The Housing Challenge.

2. Hope in Hell: When the World Forgets

By Edward Girardet, *National Geographic*, Vol. 208, No. 6, December 2005, pp. 17-42.

Reporter Girardet returns to Aceh, Indonesia -- where he had once covered the province's civil war -- less than a month after the devastation of the December 26, 2004 tsunami. Governments and private citizens responded to that disaster with an unprecedented outpouring of almost seven billion dollars in emergency relief. The author reports on how the uneven allocation of international aid negatively affects the ongoing and severe conflicts and emergencies desperately requiring resources in Uganda, Iran, Afghanistan and elsewhere. Through re-direction of aid dollars to areas of most urgent need and small reconstruction and reintegration projects carried out with the input of local residents, relief workers continue to aid stricken communities after the media circus has moved on.

DEMOCRACY & HUMAN RIGHTS

3. Making Democracy Stick

By Gerard Alexander. *Policy Review*, December 2005 & January 2006, No. 134-Web Edition.

An ambitious strategy of democracy promotion is poised to be a major pillar of U.S. foreign policy for many years after 9/11, just as Cold War containment, trade liberalization, and development assistance were pillars of American policy in the decades after 1945. The strategy of democratization must begin with the moral proposition that

"the call of freedom comes to every mind and every soul," as President Bush said in his second inaugural address. But if the strategy is to succeed, we have to ask and answer some hard questions about what obstacles exist to achieving stable democracies and how they can be overcome. That the strategy faces challenges is not doubted, least of all by some of its leading advocates. Bush acknowledged "many obstacles" to democratization and called it the "concentrated work of generations." British Prime Minister Tony Blair has said that "democracy is hard to bring into countries that have never had it before." Even Natan Sharansky, author of a relentlessly optimistic appeal for democratization, says that in places like Iraq, democracy faces "a very difficult transitional period."

4. Religious Protection: Why American Muslims Haven't Turned to Terrorism

By Spencer Ackerman, *New Republic*, Vol. 233, No. 4743, December 12, 2005, pp. 18-21, 28-30.

Counterterrorism experts note that relatively few American Muslims are involved in the global jihadist movements. Ackerman contrasts the patterns of Muslim immigrants in the U.S. and Europe to understand why American Muslims have not become involved in Islamic extremism. Muslim migration to Europe is country-specific and linked to the colonial era -- most Muslims in England are from South Asia; French and Spanish Muslims are overwhelmingly North African; and German Muslims are predominantly Turkish. European Muslims are "ghettoized" and have high levels of unemployment, few professional prospects, lack access to higher education, and are socially isolated. Not surprisingly, most of them identify themselves as Muslim, rather than with their European country of residence. American Muslims, on the other hand, are a diverse group, live in mixed neighborhoods, have high levels of homeownership and college education. Ackerman argues that the fact that Muslims in the U.S. are more integrated into American society may explain why American Muslims have shunned radical Islam, even as suspicions of Muslims in the U.S. increased after Sept. 11.

ECONOMIC SECURITY AND TRADE

5. Recovering Sustainable Development

By David G. Victor. *Foreign Affairs*, January/February 2006, Vol. 85, No. 1, pp. 91-103.

Sustainable development -- the notion that boosting economic growth, protecting natural resources, and ensuring social justice can be complementary goals -- has lost much appeal over the past two decades, the victim of woolly thinking and interest-group politics. The concept can be relevant again, but only if its original purpose -- helping the poor live healthier lives on their own terms -- is restored.

6. Antidumping: The Third Rail of Trade Policy

By N. Gregory Mankiw and Phillip L. Swage. *Foreign Affairs*, December 2005 -- *WTO Special Edition*.

Although few U.S. politicians will admit it, antidumping policy has strayed far from its original purpose of guarding against predatory foreign firms. It is now little more than an excuse for a few powerful industries to shield themselves from competition - at great cost to both American consumers and American business.

7. Regional Strategies for Global Leadership

By Pankaj Ghemawat. *Harvard Business Review*, December 2005, Vol. 83, No. 12, pp. 98-108.

Ghemawat notes that leaders of global powerhouses such as GE, Wal-Mart and Toyota have already recognized that globalization is highlighting regional distinctions rather than erasing them. Trade, foreign direct investment, and sales are examples of data that are showing clear regional patterns that the astute companies need to recognize in their strategic planning, writes Ghemawat. In a world that is neither truly local nor truly global, companies need to assess both their regional and global strategies in order to maintain their competitive edge.

8. Trade Talks Take on Immigration

By Bruce Stokes. *National Journal*, October 1, 2005, pp. 3044-3045

Immigration, a hot political issue in the U.S., is now complicating efforts to strike a deal in the Doha Round of multi-lateral trade negotiations, says Stokes. He explains, no international trade rules regulate labor migration; most nations set their own rules, using programs like the U.S. H-1B visa for professionals with specific occupations. American and European multinational companies complain that obtaining approval for intra-corporate transfers, business visits, or overseas assignments is too arbitrary and time-consuming, but Congress fears that trade deals will be used as a backdoor for opening U.S. borders to terrorists and other illegal immigrants. The business community disagrees, but their arguments have been ignored. Meanwhile, developing countries want to move additional skilled workers across borders while poorer countries argue that unskilled labor may be the only service they can export advantageously. Stokes says that migration of temporary workers is an issue U.S. trade negotiators can no longer ignore.

GLOBAL ISSUES

9. 50 Best and Most Influential Journalists

By Garrett Graff. *Washington Post*, December 2005, pp. 50-58.

In a year in which journalists have taken as many hits as plugs, the author notes, the journalism field in Washington is as cutthroat as ever. An increase in the number of news outlets means an increase in journalists, and quantity does not necessarily translate into quality. This article outlines, in the opinion of journalists, who the fifty best and most influential reporters and writers are; the author notes that journalists who may be popular are not necessarily the most influential in Washington. Some names have been on the list since 1973, including Robert Novak (Chicago-Sun Times) and Bob Woodward (Washington Post). Many are newcomers, including Steve Coll (New Yorker), who recently won the Pulitzer for his book on terrorism, and Judy Miller (New York Times), for her commitment to ethical reporting and influence on the media. A companion section looks at the "up-and-comers", who are reporting through the Internet, blogs, and other non-traditional media, and ruffling lots of government feathers in the process.

INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

10. On The Rise and Fall of American Soft Power

By Joseph S. Nye. *New Perspectives Quarterly*, Vol. 22, No. 3, Summer 2005, pp. 75-77.

Harvard Professor Joseph Nye assesses the record of the Bush administration in terms of "soft" power. The neglect of public diplomacy in Bush's first term may be reversed in the second term, as indicated by requests in the administration's new budget. However, in the author's opinion if our policies do not fit the values we espouse, an increased investment in public diplomacy will be undercut. President Bush should combine hard with soft power in order to make America a smart power again.

U.S. SOCIETY AND VALUES

11. Fulbright Connects With the Muslim World

By Sara Lipka. *Chronicle of Higher Education*, November 4, 2005, pp. A47-A49.

Fulbright, the United States' best-known academic-exchange program, is increasing its focus on the Muslim world, strengthening its ties with critical countries and establishing a short-term exchange program for professors from Muslim countries. Exchanges were reopened with Afghanistan and Iraq in 2003. The Fulbright program has also established outreach programs to high-school and undergraduate students in the Muslim world in an effort to reach more than just those countries' elites. The article includes features on three Fulbright exchange participants from Afghanistan, Egypt or Iraq who relate their experiences in the U.S.

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